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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Japan

REPORT NO. 00-B-52599

SUBJECT Taketura Ogata/Reported Successor to Yoshida/
Possible Abdication of The Emperor Hirohito

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Chinese National, now in the US, who visited Japan in late April 1952. The following information was given to him by a group of unidentified Japanese who are supporters of Taketura Ogata.

1. Taketura Ogata, a close friend of the Crown Prince, is slated to be the Prime Minister in late 1953 or early 1954, succeeding Yoshida.
2. The Japanese Emperor is expected to abdicate at that time and will be succeeded by the Crown Prince. Yoshida will retire when the Emperor abdicates.
3. Ogata is said to be well liked by the Crown Prince. Their friendship dates back to the time when Ogata was tutoring the future Emperor. He was formerly with the Tokyo Asahi and is considered to be one of the most influential men in post-war Japan.
4. Ogata is now touring the Southeast Asian countries to acquaint himself with the present leaders there and to familiarize himself with the problems of that area. Ogata talked with me for nearly two hours outside Tokyo in late April 1952. He spoke English and has a good vocabulary.

-end-

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